FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined the restoration of historic flows to Marsh and Walsh Creeks is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) c of the National Environmental Policy of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons

-The restoration of flows in 11 miles of Marsh and Walsh Creeks will restore natural hydrology to over 3,500 acres of wetlands. The draining effects of Walsh Ditch will be stopped for most of its 17-mile course through the Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

-The Driggs River will return to historic spring flows for the first time since 1915.

-The project will comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) policy on Wilderness Management in that hydrology within wilderness will be restored to natural conditions.

-The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 directs the Secretary of Interior to "ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the System are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." This project's primary focus is to restore biological integrity and environmental health to wetlands affected by a large drainage ditch.

-Executive order 11900 (Protection of Wetlands) has been considered and this project complies with USFWS policy on this Order.

-Activities in the proposed action will not adversely affect any federally threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office was consulted on potential impact to gray wolves.

All water quality and fill permits have been applied for with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Cultural Resources will be addressed through the Section 106 process.

Supporting References

1. Environmental Assessment

2. Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation

ACTING Regional Director — Date 6/26/01

Marvin E. Moriarty